

## AmeriCorps State

Project RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Self-sufficiency through Education) is a collaborative AmeriCorps effort between New American Pathways and Fugees Family that focuses on educational services to address the significant gap in the DeKalb County refugee community, among both youth and their parents. Twenty-one AmeriCorps members serve the needs of refugee youth and their families from Sudan, Burma, Iraq, Burundi, Liberia, Afghanistan, and Somalia through schools in Clarkston, Georgia. Along with the leveraged support of community volunteers, AmeriCorps members support refugee and immigrant self-sufficiency by offering individualized direct service through education in core programs, including afterschool and summer academic programming operating in multiple partner school sites. The program expects 375 youth to show improved academic engagement. In addition, more than 300 adult clients will receive educational and support services through workshops and one-on-one assistance in areas such as financial literacy, employment, and educational opportunities.

Twenty-four AmeriCorps members will participate in sea turtle rehabilitation, research, and education at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center on Jekyll Island. The program is designed to increase environmental awareness within the community as demonstrated by completion of at least 1,000 educational programs, the recruitment of volunteers to serve by supporting conservation initiatives, and a positive impact on the sea turtle species. Over the years, AmeriCorps members have come from 32 different states in the US. The AmeriCorps program was included in the America's Service Commissions and Innovations in Civic Participation's publication, "Transforming Communities through Service: A Collection of 52 of the Most Innovation AmeriCorps Programs in the United States".

## AmeriCorps National

Atlanta has the eighth highest rate of new HIV infections per capita in the nation. To address the HIV epidemic in the Atlanta community, a team of five full time AIDS United AmeriCorps members provide direct services to the Atlanta community, including HIV testing and counseling, health care access, prevention outreach, prevention education, and emotional and social services to at-risk populations. Since August 2014, AIDS United AmeriCorps members in Atlanta have informed more than 500 individuals of their HIV status through HIV testing and conducted HIV prevention education sessions to almost 3,000 participants. Of surveyed educational session participants, more than 90 percent reported an increase in knowledge of HIV transmission and prevention and how to reduce their risk for HIV. AmeriCorps members have also mobilized almost 600 volunteers in the Atlanta community.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

The United Way of the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) improves life in the Augusta and surrounding community by maximizing the impact of charitable giving. Under the United Way's Project Unite, AmeriCorps VISTAs provide critical support to enhance the organizational, administrative, and financial capacity of nonprofits addressing the needs of low-income communities in Augusta and 11 surrounding counties. VISTAs develop programs to meet local needs, recruit and train community volunteers, and write grants to support many important efforts, including Wounded Warriors, afterschool programs for disadvantaged youth, and the Homeless Continuum of Care Impact Team. The United Way's CSRA 2013 annual report highlights the impact of VISTA on the local organizations and the entire community: "In 2013, 25 AmeriCorps VISTAs raised \$502,000 in donations, recruited 4,221 volunteers, and generated over 35,780 hours of service at a value of \$743,151. The VISTA program had an impact valued at \$1,548,651 on the community for the year."

The AmeriCorps VISTA team at the United Way of Northwest Georgia supports Project CONNECT, an initiative that improves education in the rural counties of Whitfield and Murray. VISTAs impact education by supporting partner agencies and public schools that get children ready to be successful kindergarteners, read on grade level by third grade, and successfully transition to high school, college, and career. Through volunteer recruitment and resource development, VISTA members support critical services that help fight illiteracy and improve academic performance among at-risk children. This year VISTA members recruited 938 volunteers who gave 2,144 hours of service. Additionally, 362 parents connected to their child's education by attending parent involvement events hosted by VISTA members.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

An AmeriCorps NCCC team worked with Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (ONWR), a division of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The mission of the ONWR is to restore, enhance, and promote the native upland communities and the associated wetlands to maintain the natural vegetation mosaic, diversity, and viability found historically within the ONWR, Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge, Savannah, Ace Basin and Carolina Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge. The NCCC team assisted the refuge in upholding this mission by clearing canoe trails as well as a few walking trails throughout the East side of the refuge. Members cleared approximately 10 miles of trail and removed about 7,650 pounds of unwanted brush from canoe trails that became inaccessible after wildfires in 2011 and 2013. The opening of these canoe trails will result in an increased number of visitors coming to the refuge for its canoeing opportunities. The team has also assisted with the preparation of 50 endangered Red Cockaded Woodpecker tree for prescribed burning. Overall, the team's effort helped to further restore this very sensitive refuge so more people can enjoy the outdoors.

## AmeriCorps NCCC Cont'd

Habitat for Humanity is one of the most recognized and respected brands in the United States. Most people know that that Habitat builds affordable housing for hard working low income families, but there's much more to the Southern Crescent Habitat (SCHH) story. This affiliate is committed to a community focused approach to housing services that not only addresses the immediate housing need, but also invests into the lifeblood of the community's they are helping to create. An AmeriCorps NCCC team spent three weeks working with SCHH in Clayton County, Georgia. Corps members spent their time installing siding, trim, doors, and windows. In addition, they painted and primed the interior and exterior of a few homes. Altogether, members helped renovate four homes and built two brand new homes. SCHH is devoted to building and renovating homes for people who are in need of affordable housing. This is very important in Clayton County since there hasn't been much community development since the recession and property values have steadily been declining. SCHH is hoping that by building and renovating homes they will make a positive and lasting impact on working families and the community as a whole.

## Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

Savannah Economic Opportunity Center's Foster Grandparent program serves disadvantaged students in local schools. One school where Foster Grandparents has had marked success is at Hodge Memorial Day Care Center. Hodge is a nonprofit Child Care Learning Center serving toddler, preschool, and school-age. The center also participates in the subsidized child care program with 75 percent of the children meeting the criteria to receive meal assistance. During the course of the year, the center administers a screening tool that is designed to identify children who may be at risk for social or emotional difficulties. The tool screens the developmental performance of children in the areas of communication, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, problem solving, personal-social skills, and overall development across time. The children assisted by the Foster Grandparents showed an 85 percent improvement in the area of emotional and social development as indicated by the assessment.

## Senior Corps RSVP

Volunteer Macon is a volunteer service clearinghouse that was established in 1973 by the Junior League. It is located in central Georgia and serves Macon and eight surrounding rural counties. The RSVP project engages seniors to bring their unique experiences to educate others. Six Volunteer Macon RSVP African-American women, age 55 and older, who are cancer survivors, completed a Breast Health Education Training. This training allowed them to conduct outreach to more than 200 African American women and men in rural communities to get the word out about the importance of annual cancer examinations, mammograms, and self-breast examinations. The education focuses on cancer diagnosis in the early stages, helping to prolong life. The RSVP volunteers share their personal experiences and highlight possibilities of living a long life even after a cancer diagnosis. Additionally, the RSVP program received \$31,000 to implement Chronic Disease Self-Management and Diabetes Self-Management from the Middle Georgia Area Agency on Aging. Ten RSVP volunteers are trained to facilitate workshops for chronic disease and five RSVP volunteers are trained to facilitate diabetes workshops.

## Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The Athens Community Council on Aging Senior Companion Program has provided supportive services for homebound or disabled older adults in the Northeast Georgia region. Senior Companion volunteers both increased their client's capacity to age in place, and provided much needed caregiver respite. Forty-seven volunteers served 75 clients, and provided more than 50,000 hours of service in client's homes, independent living centers, and adult day health centers. Volunteers provide companionship, assistance with activities of daily living, and transportation. The ACCA Senior Companion program continues to reap the benefits of a generous community of physicians and clinics in the Northeast Georgia region. Discounted physicals from two physicians and one neighborhood clinic totaled more than \$2,100.

## Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund transforms lives and communities using limited federal investment as a catalyst to grow the impact of nonprofits with evidence of strong results. It harnesses the expertise of grantmaking intermediaries to identify, evaluate and expand effective nonprofits and engages funding partners to contribute nearly three dollars to every one federal dollar invested. As the Social Innovation Fund network grows programs that work in Georgia, more people are able to overcome their most pressing challenges in the areas of economic opportunity, health, and youth development. The Social Innovation Fund is investing \$126,250 in expanding the impact of two nonprofits in Georgia, supported by two intermediaries.